

# NEWSRELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

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### **MSP warden retiring in August**

Mike Mahoney, who has been warden at Montana State Prison for the past 16 years, is retiring next month after 31 years working for the state, including 28 years in corrections.

Mahoney's retirement is effective Aug. 12. No decision has been made on a replacement.

Mahoney, 57, said the time was right for him to leave after nearly three decades with the state and with an offer of the assistant warden's job at the Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby.

"It's the fact that I have the time in for retirement with the state of Montana and an opportunity for me to have a second career," he said. "I still feel a calling to the corrections field and working in an institutional environment. It comes down to an old adage – it is better to leave five years early than to stay 15 minutes too long."

Mahoney said he will start his new job at Crossroads on Sept. 12. The facility, which opened in 1999 and is operated by Corrections Corporation of America, has 664 beds and houses state and federal inmates.

"Mike Mahoney has proven himself one of the most dedicated and hard-working professionals I have met in my many years of working in corrections," Department Director Mike Ferriter said. "He truly has been committed to the department's mission and strived tirelessly for a safe, effective and productive prison operation for staff and inmates alike."

"Mike's departure will be much more far-reaching than the perimeter fence at MSP," Ferriter added. "Mike's positive contributions to the Deer Lodge community, the overall functions of the DOC and the entire criminal justice system in Montana have been very extensive. While replacing Mike will be a challenge, I wish him well in his new position and believe all Montanans should thank him for his years of selfless dedication to public service."

A Butte native, Mahoney joined what was then called the Department of Institutions in 1980 as an alcohol and drug abuse program evaluator. He became training director for the agency's Corrections Division three years later and moved to Montana State Prison as an associate warden for classification and treatment in 1988. He became bureau warden five years later and was named warden in 1995.

(more)

During his 23 years at the prison, Mahoney saw significant developments, including a work stoppage in early 1991 and a deadly prison riot that fall. He has been involved in the department's increased emphasis placed on offender rehabilitation and community corrections. In 1995, he oversaw Montana's first execution in about 50 years.

Mahoney was warden when Montana's overcrowded prison system nearly doubled in size with the addition of three regional prisons and the Crossroads in the late 1990s. At the time, Montana had hundreds of inmates housed in other states' prisons and lawmakers determined the state needed to be able to accommodate its own prison population and handle future growth.

Mahoney also oversaw creation of a new reception unit at the Deer Lodge prison in 2004 that could better process and assess inmates entering the prison system, and the 2009 expansion of the Work and Re-entry Center to house inmates assigned daily to work programs outside the prison compound.

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